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Facts and Observations relating to Agriculture and Domestic Economy.

[BY THE EDITOR.]

ON THE USE OF SALT AS A MANURE.

[*Concluded from page* 210.]

Manures may be divided into two classes.—The one is called animal and vegetable or putrescent manures. They consist of decayed and decaying animal and vegetable substances. The other class is denominated fossil manures. The last mentioned do not properly constitute the food of plants, although they enter into the composition of vegetables in minute quantities. Fossil manures stimulate plants, and cause them to take their food faster than they otherwise would do. They are like what medical men call *condiments*, and answer the same purpose as respects the economy of vegetables, which salt, pepper, spices, &c. effect as regards the animal economy. Under the class of fossil manures are also placed not only lime, marl, and gypsum, but sand, gravel and clay. All of these, or their elements are found in plants by chemical analysis. Sir Humphrey Davy says "the earths found in plants are four; silica or earth of flints, alumina or pure clay, lime and magnesia." These constitute all the principal kinds of earth, are procured by burning, and detected in the ashes of vegetables. As they form a part of the substance of plants, they would seem to be part of the food of the plants. But as they are found in very minute quantities only, they can, strictly speaking, no more be considered as the food of plants than salt, pepper, and spices can be said to be the food of animals. The oxides of iron and manganese are sometimes found in plants: yet nobody would class those substances with manures, or what is the same thing, food for vegetables.

Manuring land is nothing more than providing food for the crop which you intend to raise on such land. You can no better feed your plants with salt alone than you could your sheep and horses. Salt rather qualifies and prepares food for animals and vegetables than constitutes such food. Manure properly so called must supply the nutriment of plants in oxygene [vital air] carbon, [fixed air] or azote, [one ingredient of the atmosphere.] "Plants are found by analysis to consist principally of charcoal and aeriform matter. They give out by distillation volatile compounds, the elements of which are pure air, flammable air, coaly matter and azote, or that elastic substance which forms a great part of the atmosphere, and which is incapable of supporting combustion."* Plants when burnt leave in their ashes pot ash or soda (which last is one of the ingredients of common salt) together with some or all the above mentioned kinds of earth. Now as plants consist "principally of charcoal" it would seem that charcoal should be the principal ingredient in manure. And this theory comports with what is found to be fact by experience. Stable manures, which generally speaking are among the best manures, consist chiefly of carbon, and during their decomposition or while they are rotting give out principally carbonic acid gas. That is they supply plants which consist "principally of charcoal" with the charcoal they need. But common salt is a compound of murcatic acid and soda, or according to Sir Humphrey Davy, of his newly discovered metal called sodium, and chlorine. Now as neither of these substances, either in their simple or compound state, contain carbon, which is the article most in demand by growing vegetables, it is plain that salt can furnish but little nutriment to plants. We therefore think that the author of "Letters of Agricola" is perfectly correct, when he says "We must not imagine that the farmer, in his application of fossil matter is as much providing a store of aliment for his crops, as when carrying to his fields the contents of his dunghill. In this latter case he is literally preparing the banquet for the feeding fibres; in the other, his practice is guided by totally opposite views. The putrescent manures, are strictly and properly the food of vegetation as supplying either the ternary or quaternary products which are the previous results of a vital principle, or their component elements of carbon, hydrogene, oxygene and azote: the fossils on the other hand, enter in a very partial manner into the system; and though no chemical substances have been lifted to the rank of manures, which have not been found in the organization, yet their agency must be referred more to other causes, such as being offensive to grubs and insects, altering the mechanical texture of the soil and its relation to atmospheric absorption, or rendering it more or less retentive of water."

A certain proportion of common salt is no doubt a useful ingredient in every soil. But it is often supplied by the hand of nature. Sir Humphrey Davy says, "I have found salt in all the sand stone rocks that I have examined, and it must exist in the soil derived from these rocks. It is a constituent likewise of almost every kind of vegetable and animal manure." If it already exist in the soil in sufficient quantity, any addition must be injurious. To ascertain whether there is a sufficient quantity of salt in a soil to answer the calls of vegetation the cultivator must either have recourse to experiments as directed pages 209, 210, or chemical analysis, as described page 68. Some attention must be paid to the nature of the crop to be cultivated. Flax requires more salt than common crops, and we believe all plants of an oily or mucilaginous nature require salt, in larger proportions than others, which contain little or no oil or mucilage.

With respect to the different results of experiments with salt as a manure, such as that of Dr. Deane, who "could not perceive that the salt was at all beneficial to onions,"*—and Mr. Beck, who "found salt to exceed every other kind of manure" for the same plant, we can in no other way account for them but by supposing the soils in which these experiments were made to have been different. The one probably contained salt sufficient to supply the onions with as much as was necessary for their flourishing, and the other being naturally destitute of salt, it was found useful to furnish it by art. The same reasoning will apply to gypsum and indeed to all other applications to soil with a view to increase its products. If your land has already a sufficient quantity of animal or vegetable matter, even stable manure would be worse than useless if applied to such soil;—it would prove positively injurious.

If salt alone was in all cases a useful manure we could have no barren sea coast. All lands subject to the saline influences of the sea must become as fruitful as if they had been for a long time watered with the drainings from a dung heap. Cape Cod would be as fertile as the Garden of Eden, and the most arid sands on the sea coast would, many ages since, have been converted into rich mould, as fertile at least as the sediment deposited by the overflowing of the Nile. We do not make these remarks with a view to discourage cultivators from the application of salt to their soil, but to render them cautious in such application. We believe salt may be an auxiliary, but not a substitute for the recrements of animals and vegetables, commonly used as manures.

Sea water is doubtless as an application to soil much preferable to salt. It contains, besides salt, dirt or mud suspended in the fluid, carbonate of lime, muriate of lime, sulphate of lime or gypsum, magnesia, muriate of magnesia, or Epsom salt, calx of iron, muriate of iron, &c. But none of these except the mud, are capable of supplying the want of the carbonaceous and other matters which give their principal value to animal and vegetable manures, and the mud is not always obtained from the *wash* of the sea in quantity sufficient to produce much effect.

STEEPING WHEAT IN SALT WATER, &c. A correspondent of the Farmer's Journal, an English Newspaper, inquires whether "steeping wheat in salt water for many hours will destroy the germinating powers of the grain?" To this query the Editor of that publication replies, "we have known that when wheat has lain in the edge of the tub during the whole time of brining, a fortnight or more, and has been purposely tried, and have grown as well as any other."

Probably the strength of the brine, and the temperature of the weather would make a difference in this respect. We have known garden peas steeped in a strong solution of salt petre till they would not vegetate, when planted, but cannot tell either the strength of the solution, the length of time the peas were immersed in it, nor the temperature of the weather, during the time the peas were steeping. Although we do not believe in the fertilizing power of steeps, yet we think they may sometimes be of service. But lime water, solutions of blue vitriol, copperas, common salt, and salt petre, have all a tendency to preserve seeds from being destroyed by insects, while in the ground, or pulled up and devoured by crows, or other birds. It is then desirable to know how strong

* Agricultural Chemistry.

* See page 169. † See page 201.

the steeps should be made, and how long the seeds should be immersed, so as not to destroy the power of vegetation, and at the same time preserve the seeds against worms, &c. Experiments to determine these points are much wanted.

It is believed that if ground where seeds are planted is moist, and the seeds are planted early, it is best to put them into the ground without soaking them, either in pure water, or any sort of pickle; because if soaked they are more apt to rot without sprouting. But if the ground is dry, and the seeds put in late, there is advantage in steeping them, either in a suitable pickle or in pure water. In the former case the pickle at once accelerates the sprouting and preserves against insects. In the latter case the germination is quickened by the moisture, which in late planting or sowing, may be of material service to the crop.

From Thacher's American Orchardist.

ENGRAFTING.

The art of engrafting has not, it is believed, been traced to its origin. In a treatise, published by Parkinson, in 1629, both grafting and inoculating are mentioned, but the period when the practise commenced has not been ascertained. The great utility and advantage of the art is, however, universally understood. According to Mr. Yates, (letter published in Forsyth's Treatise,) the art was introduced into America by Mr. Prince, a native of New-York, who established a nursery in its neighborhood about sixty years ago. Fruit trees, which are grafted or inoculated, come into a bearing state several years sooner than those produced from seed: besides, grafted or inoculated trees invariably produce the same kind of fruit as the parent tree from which the scion or bud is taken, while that from seedling trees is liable to sport in endless varieties. In the choice of scions for grafting, the first essential requisite is, that they are of the same genus and natural family with the stock which is to become their foster parent, and which is to afford them future nourishment and support. The apple cannot be advantageously engrafted on a pear stock, nor will a pear succeed well on an apple stock; for although it may flourish and bear fruit for a few years, it will never prove a profitable tree, and will decline and decay sooner than others. Scions from a winter apple tree should not be grafted on a summer apple stock, because the sap in the summer stock is liable to decline and diminish before the winter fruit has become fully ripe. In the memoirs of the American Acadamy of Arts and Sciences, volume 1, page 388, is a communication from the late honourable B. Lincoln, relative to the engrafting of fruit trees, &c. in which he says, "I had observed, for a number of years, an apple tree in my orchard, the natural fruit of which was very early, having been grafted with a winter scion, producing fruit very like in appearance to the fruit produced by the tree whence the scion was taken, but destitute of those qualities inherent in that fruit, and necessary to its keeping through the winter. This led me to call in question the propriety of grafting winter fruit on a summer stock," &c. A pear is occasionally engrafted on a quince, for the purpose of dwarf trees, but it is of smaller growth, and less vigorous and durable than if nourished by its more natural parent. It is next important, that scions be taken from trees that have attained to the maturity of full bearing. Perhaps cultivators, in general, are not apprized of the fact, that, if a scion be taken from a seedling tree of one or two years old, it will retain the character and undergo the same annual change as the seedling tree itself, whatever be the age of the stock into which it is inserted; and that it will remain unproductive of fruit, until the seedling tree has acquired its proper age and maturity. It is strongly to be suspected, that nursery men, either from ignorance or indifference, have disregarded this circumstance, and imposed upon purchasers trees of this description, by which their just expectations have been disappointed. Scions are directed to be cut in March, before the buds begin to swell; and in order to preserve them in good condition for grafting, they must be placed, with their lower ends in the ground, in some dry part of the cellar, till wanted. But some experienced operators prefer cutting their scions as near the time they are to be employed as may be convenient. Scions should always be taken from the extremities of the most thrifty and best bearing trees, and of the last year's growth, except only just enough of the growth of the year before to fix in the earth, to preserve them moist until they are to be used. In the Edinburgh Encyclopedia it is advised to cut the scions several weeks before the season for grafting arrives; the reason is, that experience has shown, that grafting may most successfully be performed, by allowing the stock to have some advantage over the graft in forwardness of vegetation. It is desirable, that the sap of the stock should be in brisk motion at the time of grafting; but by this time, the buds of the scion, is left on the tree, would be equally advanced; whereas the scions, being gathered early, the buds are kept back, and ready only to swell out, when the graft is placed on the stock. The selecting proper scions, the writer observes, is a matter of the greatest importance, if we wish to enjoy the full advantage which may be derived from grafting. They should be taken from a healthy tree in full bearing, and from the outer side of the horizontal branches of such a tree, where the wood has freely enjoyed the benefit of sun and air. If the tree be in a luxuriant state, the grafts are very properly taken from the extremities of bearing branches; but if it be in a debilitated condition, the most healthy shoots in the centre of the tree should be employed. The extremity of the scion should be cut off, leaving four or five eyes or buds, as the middle part affords the best graft. The most proper season for grafting, in our climate, is from about the twentieth of March, to the twentieth of May, though the operation has succeeded well, as late as the tenth of June, provided the scions have been properly preserved. Practical gardeners, it is said, concur in stating, that the nature of fruit is, to a certain extent, affected by the nature of the stock. Crab stocks, for example, cause apples to be firmer, to keep longer, and to have a sharper flavor. Mr. S. Cooper, of New-Jersey, expresses himself as follows, on this subject: (Dom. Ency. Mease's edit.) "I have, in numerous instances, seen the stock have great influence on the fruit grafted thereon, in respect to bearing, size, and flavor, and also on the durability of the tree, particularly in the instance of a number of Vandevere apple trees; the fruit of which was so subject to the bitter rot as to be of little use. They were engrafted fifty years ago, and ever since those of them having tops composed of several different kinds, though they continue to be more productive of fruit than any others in my orchard, yet are subject to the bitter rot, the original and well known affection of the fruit of the primitive stock. I have had frequent opportunities of observing the same circumstance, in consequence of receiving many scions from my friends, which, after bearing, I engrafted, and the succeeding fruit uniformly partook, in some degree, of the qualities of the former, even in their disposition to bear annually or biennially." Mr. C. has ascertained the fact that early and late apples, by being grafted on the same tree, improved in size and flavor more than if but one kind grew on a tree. It should be observed, as a rule, never to employ suckers from old trees as stocks for grafts, or buds, as they have a constant tendency to generate suckers, and thereby injure the growth of the trees.

From the Concord (Mass.) Gazette.

MY UNCLE PETER'S VIEWS.

"Oh the times! how hard they press
"On a poor farmer in distress!"—

Mad Poet.

"If you would be wealthy, think of saving as well as of getting. The mines of South America could not make Spain rich, because her out-goes were greater than her incomes."

Maxims.

I have so often heard the lamentations of farmers over their unhappy lot, as it is erroneously called, that I have been induced to consider them an unfortunate class of the community, suffering more particularly than other men of different professions from the fluctuating state of the times during the last fifteen years. The well known depression in the prices of agricultural products, has tended to produce this opinion and give it general currency. But after comparing the price of the farmers produce, and the prices of those articles he must necessarily purchase from abroad for domestic purposes, during the most prosperous times, with the prices of the same articles now, we have data from which we can determine the correctness of this opinion. Not long since, during a conversation with My Uncle on this subject, he informed me, he had made out from his book of "Out-goes and Incomes" of his farm, which he always kept, a list of the various articles sold and bought, and annexed the prices of each at the different periods of 1814 and 1824. I extract the following items:—

Articles sold, in	1814.		in 1824.
Rye, at	$1, 75	per bushel, at	75
Corn,	1, 42	"	62
Oats,	58	"	45
Butter,	22	per pound	16
Cheese,	10	"	8
Articles bought in	1814.		in 1824.
W. I. Rum, at	2, 50	per gallon,	75
N. E. do.	1, 75	"	32
Molasses,	1, 67	"	30
B. Sugar,	1, 75	per 7 pounds,	67
Loaf do.	48	per pound,	16
Hyson Tea,	2, 75	"	1, 12
Souch. do.	3, 00	"	67
Sheeting,	60	per yard,	16
Shirting,	42	"	12
Gingham,	50	"	17
Sattinett,	2, 17	"	67

These are important facts and place the subject in a different light from that in which it is generally viewed. A bushel of grain or a pound of butter will purchase, according to this statement, more rum, tea, or cloth now than in 1814—the time when the highest price was given for the farmer's produce.

Our wealth ought to be estimated by the means we possess for happiness; and if an article will procure as much now as formerly, tho' it might not amount to so many dollars and cents, it shows that a dollar is worth more now than it was then, but it does not show that the times are harder. In estimating the prosperity of business now, it is improper to take into consideration the embarrassments of those who purchased real estate on credit at a much higher rate than its present value; this is one of the misfortunes arising from erroneous calculation. But let a farmer purchase a farm at its present low price, and whether he buy for cash or credit, he can live as independently from the income of his farm as formerly. My Uncle often commiserates those who have to pass that formidable mountain—*old debts*—but the number of such is comparatively small.

From considerations like these I am led to conclude that, though *Hard Times* may occasionally knock at the door of some farmers, his visits are not occasioned by the low price of his produce, but by some other cause. ICHABOD.

Groton, Feb. 6, 1824.

Mr. Leslie's River Glass.—We had intended to notice this simple, but ingenious invention, in our last. It is a tube, that may be varied in length as occasion shall require, about an inch broad at the top, where the eye is applied, and regularly enlarging to the bottom, which bears a proportion to the other end, of about 10 to 1 in diameter. Each end is glazed. The use of it is to examine the bottoms of rivers, &c. The great reason why one cannot look through water to the bottom, is the reflection and refraction of the rays of light upon arriving at the surface. This glass overcomes that difficulty, by extending the eye, as it were, into the denser medium, and making use of the light which is in the water, where the rays pursue right lines, as well as in the rarer medium of the air. For use in the night, it is fitted with lamps suspended near the bottom in a shorter cylinder, which goes on over the top of the tube and descends till the bottom of the cylinder is as low as the bottom of the tube, and there it is secured. In the space between the cylinder and tube, lamps are suspended; the mouth of the cylinder, as well as tube, being glazed. To let off the smoke of the lamps, and supply them with air, two small pipes the first from the top, and the second from the bottom of the cylinder, lead up the side of the tube. The lamps throw a strong light around, and the bottom of the river is easily examined. The correctness of the principle on which the value of this instrument depends, has been fully tested by every swimmer, who has opened his eyes under water, and thus discovered, what, while his eyes were above the water he could not discern. The uses of such an instrument will readily occur. Among other interesting ones, the speedy recovery of drowned bodies is one, and it would doubtless be the means of saving many lives. Lost property, too may be found, and the impediments to excavation discovered, and their removal facilitated. The name of the inventor of this River Glass is William Leslie, of Lansinburgh, originally from Massachusetts. For a short time past he has been employed in this city. He is well known in this vicinity for his mechanical ingenuity.

[*Troy Sentinel.*

A very novel but interesting operation was last week exhibited in the Anatomical Theatre at Saint Thomas's Hospital. Mr. Jukes, a surgeon, who invented the apparatus for extracting poison from the stomach nearly two years ago, satisfactorily proved by experiments upon himself the efficacy of the practise, now attended, at the request of Sir Astley Cooper, to repeat the experiment of emptying the stomach by mechanical means Mr. Jukes chose to be himself the subject of the experiment and was so sanguine of the success of the operation, that he would have swallowed a large quantity of laudanum, had not the entreaties of his friends induced him to substitute a solution of licorice instead. Having swallowed a portion of this solution, and drinking two pints of water, Mr. Jukes introduced a long flexible tube into his mouth and passed it down into the stomach. Mr. Scott, a surgeon, who had formerly performed a similar operation upon this gentleman, immediately fixed a large copper syringe to the extremity of the tube, and in the space of two minutes completely pumped up the whole of the liquid that had been drank into a wash-hand basin held by an assistant. Sir Astley Cooper expressed the highest satisfaction in witnessing the speedy and successful effect of the operation, and the Theatre, which was excessively crowded by professional spectators, rung loudly with shouts of approbation. This public demonstration of the practicability of emptying the stomach by mechanical means though the first made upon the human species, satisfactorily assures the medical profession of the easy application of the apparatus to cases of poisoning, and it is to be hoped, that by the timely use of this invaluable instrument, our public records of accidental and suicidal deaths from poison will happily now be but few.—*London paper.*

Art of Writing.—M. Le Roi has contrived a new and very simple method for teaching the art of writing. A thin and perfectly transparent plate of horn, of the usual size of a leaf of paper, has the polish removed from one of its sides. When laid upon the copy, the hand of a child easily traces the letters upon the unpolished side, which neither absorbs the ink nor allows it to spread. When the whole plate is written over, the ink is washed off with water, and is ready for a new exercise. Thus the same horn which is not liable to break, may serve indefinitely, and by this means produce a great economy of paper—a consideration not to be neglected. Several analogous methods have been adopted both in England and France. Oiled paper, glass, a machine for guiding the pupil's hand, &c. have been used, but it is evident that the method of M. Le Roi has none of their imperfections. The Minister of the interior, who has witnessed the success obtained by this invention, has rewarded the author; and the societies of encouragement and of elementary instruction, as well as the writing academy, have expressed their approbation of this new process. Mothers may teach their children to write, in the absence of the master, or even dispense with his attendance by the adoption of the horn.—*Silliman's Journal of Science.*

Wild Geese.—When wild geese are tamed, they will join with a flock of domestic geese, but at the usual time of migration, are very apt to join any flock which approaches near them in their passage.—*William's Hist. Vt. p.* 136.

A number of years since, a farmer in Massachusetts shot at a flock of wild geese that was passing over to the south, and broke the wing of one of them. He kept and domesticated the goose, until it was apparently as tame as any one from our common flocks. The ensuing spring he neglected to clip her wings, and she flew away in a flock that was passing to the north, and he conceived her lost. The next autumn, however, when a very large flock was returning to the south, eleven detached themselves and alighted in the farmer's yard. They proved to be one old and ten young ones. The old one was the same that left him in the spring.

[*Hartford Mercury.*

Vegetable Milk.—In addition to the vegetable bread, vegetable butter, and cabbage tree, which have been brought to light by recent travellers, we now learn by the *Gazette de Santa* of the 25th July last, that M. de Humboldt has discovered in that region a tree which abundantly affords a milky juice, similar in its properties to the milk of animals, and employed for the same purposes. This liquid, which was drank by Humboldt, is stated to be derived from the *palo de lech*, or *de vaca*, a tree which grows, abundantly in the mountains above Periquito to the north-east of Maracay, a village to the west of Caraccas. The milk possesses the same physical qualities as that of the cow, with this only difference, that it is a little viscous: it has the same taste also as cow's milk.—*Eve. Post.*

Cure for the Foot Rot in Sheep.—Pare the hoofs of the sheep thus affected, letting no hollow remain which may collect the dirt; if matter is formed be particularly careful to let it out. After which take some stale urine and wash their feet with it quite clean, and wipe them with a sponge. Put then the sheep into a house or shed, the floor of which has been previously covered about two inches thick with quick lime reduced to powder by means of a small quantity of water, the newer the lime the better. Let the sheep stand upon it for six or seven hours and the cure will be effected.

[*London Magazine.*

We once heard of a traveller who told a story of an immense pie,—so large, indeed, that after the crust and meat were eaten, a dozen couples danced in the dish, and one of them lost a buckle in the gravy. Now we cannot boast that Sheffield, has ever produced such a pie, but one was exhibited and eaten at Mr. *Turner's* on Christmas Eve, of the following size—one yard and a half long, two feet wide, one foot deep, ten feet round. It was baked by Mr. *Barlow*, quite perfect; the crust consisting of six stone of rye meal.—*Sheffield Inq.*

HON. MR. WELLES ON GRASSES.

TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

In the Agricultural Journal of January last I offered some observations on Grasses, and gave the result of an experiment shewing their loss by exsiccation or the process of drying, in the summer of 1822. This subject has been pursued during the past season, and still farther extended. The variation, in the comparison of the two years, is not, it is apprehended, greater, (except in one or two instances which will be explained) than will often occur from the nature of the soil, difference of season, closeness of vegetation, exposure to the sun, &c. &c. As far as a general principle may be established by experiment, it will, in some degree, go to fix the relative value of our natural grasses, as they prevail in our pastures, or of those artificial grasses which should be selected as fit objects of cultivation. In collecting these several species, I have found the natural grasses which generally prevail in this neighborhood, so few in number, that a short and yet sufficient description of them could be most properly first given with advantage.

The earliest grass we have is the Avena Spicata (Linn.) or spiked oat grass. It is peculiarly indigenous to the United States, and grows, it is said, as far south as Georgia. This grass ripens so early that it mostly sheds its seed, and thus reproduces itself, and is widely propagated. For this reason, as well as from its short growth, it is undeserving of culture, yielding little to the scythe. But it is of great value for early feed in our natural pastures, in which it abounds. One hundred pounds cut on the 15th July last, gave fifty pounds of hay.

The next grass which we shall mention is the Poa pratensis (Linn.) with us falsely called Red top, a color it never has. This, both in Europe and America, is the common and prevailing grass of the pastures. It grows in almost every soil and situation, and is one of those materials which is used in Europe for the manufacture of bonnets. The color of its top, or panicle, is of a yellowish brown. The number of florets in the spike vary from three to five.—The seed is sometimes saved and sown; but these fine spired grasses have so minute a seed, that, either from exposure to dampness and fermentation, or some other causes, which it is difficult to prevent or discover, they too often fail of vegetating, by which great injury and disappointment occurs in the wished for crop. Though this grass is amongst those which lose the least in drying, yet, as it presents little to the scythe, it cannot be recommended for culture. It is excellent in our pastures, and comes in naturally as the artificial grasses go out of mowing lots. Indeed it has a preference with our farmers generally, for horned cattle, over every other grass. One hundred pounds cut July 17, gave forty-six pounds. It was past flowering.

The notice of our prevailing natural grasses might here be closed, but as the grasses which we shall next describe appear in our pastures, as well as our cultivated grass land, and are mentioned by several writers in answer to the question proposed by the Society, as to "what natural grasses prevail in this part of the country," we shall give their description here.

The grass here called Rhode Island, is the Agrostis alba (Linnæus) the *Marsh Bent* grass of England, or the Agrostis Stolinifera, Schrader, German. That excellent botanist, Mr. Nutall, of Cambridge, to whom I exhibited a sample, pronounced it the famous Fiorin grass of Dr. Richardson and the Irish agriculturists, on the authority of Hooker, who describes "the panicle thereof as purple, and the branchlets patent." The color, at first, of the branchlets is of a deep red, and they adhere closely to the spike, but as they flower they become patent and change to a lighter purple. This grass has six to eight branchlets, and flowers more fully than the Poa pratensis though often confounded therewith. It is amongst those which lose least by evaporation, and would be a more favorable object of cultivation were it not liable to the same uncertainty as to its vegetating and producing a crop as the preceding grass, and, from probably a like cause. In Ireland it is said to suit a wet soil, and to produce over six tons to the acre. In this country it does not flourish in such soil, nor does it give a great crop, especially compared with the Herds-grass. Still the hay is very excellent, and perhaps not exceeded by any other for its intrinsic value in nutriment. One hundred pounds in early flower, cut July 17th gave forty pounds.

The grass, in the answer given to the Society called Cambridge, Dog and Garden grass, is the Triticum repens. Dr. Elliot calls it the "hurtful *blue* or *Dutch* grass." In England it is called couch, knot, or dog grass. Every joint of its root produces a new plant, and it is said to be there, as it is found here, one of the worst weeds, and most difficult to extirpate. It resembles wheat, of which it is a species. The best mode to destroy it is to keep the lands longer under the plough, with a frequent use of the hoe, as where this is not done, two years ploughing only not merely multiplies, but occasions it to engross the whole soil. It has a hard woody fibre and is disliked by cattle. It flourishes mostly near cowyards, and gardens, and is called Cambridge from its abounding on the salt banks of the Charles river. One hundred lbs. cut July 22d, in late flower, gave forty-eight pounds.

The grasses above described are those which prevail in our uplands, and are indigenous here. They are, probably, most of them what Doctor Elliot, in his Field Husbandry, denominates English Spear grass, and speaks of as natural to the soil and more hardy. The term *English* has been applied to our upland hay ever since the settlement of the country. These, with the red and white clover, and the varieties which nature, in a course of culture, or otherwise, produces, are what give verdure and fertility to the face of the earth.

Of the cultivated grasses, the first in importance is the Herds or Timothy grass, phleum pratense (Linnæus.) Doctor Elliot says "it is a native and early discovered in this country by a man of the name of Heard in Piscataqua." It is doubtless admirably suited to our soil and climate, and not only flourishes in uplands, but may be sowed to advantage in low grounds, especially when drained or raised with gravel or loom. It often attains in height five feet and has been known to produce over four tons to the acre. It does not yield much till the second and third years. For which reason it is sown with clover, which being biennial and of shorter duration gives it space to succeed. In this vicinity such is the preference given to it that it sells at about one fourth more than any other hay. It lasts with one or two top dressings six to seven years. The answers to the enquiries of the Society as to the quantity of seed sown, are two to six quarts. There should not be less seed than half a bushel to an acre, which later experience establishes most decidedly. One hundred pounds cut 11th July last, gave thirty-nine.

Red clover (trifolium pratense) is a most valuable grass, when cut green, it affords an excellent nourishment for cattle in the soiling process, as well as for swine. When made into hay, cattle are exceedingly fond of it. The flower and leaves are apt to separate from the stem, for which reason great care should be taken that it is not made brittle by too much exposure to the sun. It is best cured as far as may be in cock, and should be carted after the dew begins to fall. When properly dried, salt is used advantageously, as it may be housed with safety, more green than any other hay.—This prevents fermentation and heating, and it is kept in better order. Many in this vicinity not only salt their clover, but all other hay.—Lord Somerville observes that "he uses half a bushel of salt to a ton, and its benefit surpasses all belief producing the best possible effect in color, flavor, and general result;" with damaged hay, he says, "it is a great restorative."

The benefit of salt in the culture of the soil being now so generally acknowledged and the use of it so necessary for cattle in the interior or remote from the sea coast, it is difficult to assign a reason why its use is not more prevalent. To land highly manured two to four pounds of seed in this neighborhood is used. But in the interior some apply eight pounds and many more. One hundred pounds cut July 6th, gave twenty-five pounds.

The white clover (trifolium repens,) is an abiding grass, sending out roots from every joint and forming a close mat on the ground and is very excellent for pastures. But it is found to afford so little to the scythe as to discourage the culture thereof. One hundred pounds cut June 26th, gave twenty-seven pounds.

Of the grasses which grow in our meadows two only have been tried. The fowl meadow which Doctor Eliiot supposed to have been brought to Dedham by birds said to be the poa nemoralis or marsh meadow grass of England.

It is an excellent grass, and deserving of culture. It is believed however to have extended itself more by its shedding its seed early than by any artificial means. One hundred lbs. cut July 23, gave fifty three pounds.

The common grasses of our wet meadows it is believed, are various kinds of carex. This in all its varieties is a poor grass, and where the land can be ditched and made to produce a better growth, the means should be taken. It is a bad economy to flood lands with mere water for a long time to increase a nearly worthless burthen. The effect is to destroy all sweet nutritive tender plants. One hundred pounds cut 23d July, gave forty-four pounds.

The "Marine Fox Tail grass," which is the prevailing grass of our salt marshes we receive from nature without knowing how to aid in its

increase. One hundred pounds cut July 18th, gave sixty pounds.

The Black grass (Juncus Bulbosus) grows principally where the water is freshened by streams from the uplands. It is the most valuable salt grass we have and but little inferior to upland grass, we know no means of artificial increase. One hundred pounds cut July 18th, gave 38 pounds.

We have too far trespassed on the time of the readers to do more than allude to some of those grasses which have been introduced and proved unsuitable for our culture.

The Wild Oat grass (Avena Elatior) with the Rye Ray or Durnel grass with which it is said to be confounded, are often seen in our pastures and meadows, but animals seldom touch them. They have a strong woody fibre, and afford little nutriment though well spoken of south of us as well as in Europe.

The Burnet scarcely shews itself for a year and then disappears.

The Succory has been praised by Mr. Arthur Young, that distinguished agriculturist who sent it to General Washington. It has been introduced here, is disliked by cattle, and has become one of the most troublesome intruders in our fields. These with the St. Foin and Lucerne and many others have passed away and seem to have ceased with us to excite expectation. Of the Orchard grass or cocks foot [Dactylis Glomerata] the trials I have witnessed do not enable me to speak so decisively as one of the Trustees, Mr. Prince, does who approves of it. It may be considered as in a course of experiment.

My desire, Sir, in the preceding, has been to aid in exciting an attention to the best means of culture for our grass lands. The process of sowing grass seeds was far from universal within the recollection of many in this country and is lamentably insufficient now. Its neglect has been complained of even in Europe. It has been contended that nature would furnish according to her own capacity the power of increase in this particular. Thus the soil was to be furnished with the means of promoting vegetation by *labor* and *art*. But here these were to stop and the stimulating principles were to evaporate and be wasted and one or two good crops lost in waiting for this slow process.

But the blindness of this doctrine is vanishing before the light and improvement of the present age. We learn from experience that the earth presents to industry and skill her ceaseless efforts, and never pauses but from our neglect.

Table showing the loss of weight in drying grasses.

	1822.	1823.
100 lbs. of Green white Clover,* gave—	17 1-2	27
100 lbs. of Red† Clover, gave	27 1-2	25
100 lbs. of Herd's Grass, gave	40	39
100 lbs. of Fresh Meadow, gave	33	44
100 lbs. of Salt Grass,‡ gave	39	60
100 lbs. of 2d crop, or Eng. Rowan, gave	18 3-4	19

* The White Clover of 1822, was taken in the shade. That in 1823, from a light warm soil exposed to the sun.

† The Red Clover in 1823, was taken in the first year of its product, in close growth and for that reason falls short of 1822.

‡ The Salt Grass of 1822, was, I have reason to suppose, a second growth which accounts for the difference of the two years.

If enabled, experiments will in these cases be hereafter given, so as to fix the result with sufficient accuracy.

	1822.	1823.
100 lbs. of Corn Stalks, gave	25	25
100 lbs. of Spiked Oat Grass, gave		50
100 lbs. of Red Top, gave		46
100 lbs. of Rhode Island, gave		40
100 lbs. of Couch Grass, gave		48
100 lbs. of Marine Black Grass, gave		38

I am, gentlemen, with high respect, yours,

J. WELLES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AMERICAN FARMER.

BUDDING.

Salem, (Ind.) Jan. 14, 1824.

Dear Sir,—I have practised a mode of budding fruit trees, for some years past, which I do not recollect to have seen described in print; it has succeeded so far very well with me, and may prove new and useful, to some of your readers. It is, budding from cuttings, taken from bearing trees in February, and preserved in boxes of sand in a cellar, until wanted in the same manner as if intended for grafting. They will keep, in this manner, sound, until the middle of June, and perhaps longer, and which may thus be transported to any distance; while cuttings in July,(and buds are seldom mature enough for budding, before that time,) can with difficulty be preserved a few days. As soon as the sap rises freely in the spring, (say the middle of April,) you may commence budding with these winter cuttings, with as much success as at any other time of the year, which may be continued until June or July.—Budding is a neater and pleasanter operation than grafting, and this mode places them upon an equal footing with grafts in March; I continue the wrapping of coarse yarn on, seven or eight days, then head them down, and by the winter, the buds will have grown, (if the season proves favorable) two or three feet in length. I find it an injury to prune the bodies of standards too closely below the buds; the first season, the new bud cannot, (until it has attained the same size,) imbibe and assimilate to itself all the sap that rises, which must, if all the conducting limbs are pruned off, stagnate and disorder both body and roots; will sometimes destroy the stock altogether, or make the body eventually, less than the top or budded part; merely shortening or cutting out too luxuriant shoots, I conceive best, the first summer. In my nursery, I prefer budding on the leading top shoot at the height of four or five feet, as soon as it is three eighths of an inch in diameter; at that height, the juncture of the two growths being more complete in such, than in those of larger growth. One man may bud three hundred in a day, and with an assistant to tie after him, twice that number; in this manner, of those which I bud myself I do not lose five in the hundred.

Your obedient servant,

C. HARRISON.

N. B. I have only attempted budding apples and pears in this way, but have no doubt, it will succeed equally well, with stoned fruit.

ANCIENT AGRICULTURE.

From the earliest accounts of the eastern nations, we have reason to think, that agriculture has at all times been understood by them in considerable perfection; seeing they were always supplied not only with the necessaries, but the greatest luxuries of life.

As soon as the descendants of Abraham were settled in Palestine, they generally became husbandmen, from the chiefs of the tribe of Judah to the lowest branch of the family of Benjamin. High birth or rank at that time did not make any distinction, for agriculture was considered as the most honourable of all employments; witness the illustrious example of Gideon, Saul, and David.

The Chaldeans, who inhabited the country where agriculture doubtless had its birth, carried that art to a degree of excellence unknown in former times. They cultivated their lands with great assiduity, and seem to have found out some means of restoring fertility to an exhausted soil, by having plentiful harvests in succession; on which account they were not obliged as their predecessors had been, to change their situations in order to obtain a sufficiency for themselves and their numerous flocks and herds.

The Egyptians, who, from the natural fertility of their country, by the overflowing of the Nile, raised every year vast quantities of corn, were so sensible of the blessings resulting from agriculture, that they ascribed the invention of that art to Osiris, their chief God. They also regarded Isis, their second deity, as the discoverer of the use of wheat and barley, which before grew wild in the fields, and was not applied by the people to the purposes of food. Their superstitious gratitude was carried so far, as to worship those animals which were employed in tillage; and even to the produce of their lands, as Leeks, Onions, &c.

The divine honours paid to Bacchus in India were derived from the same source, he being considered in that country, as the inventor of planting vineyards, and the other arts attendant upon agriculture.

It is also related of the ancient Persians, on the most respectable authority, that their kings laid aside their grandeur once every month to eat with husbandmen. This is a striking instance of the high estimation in which they held agriculture; for at that time arts were practised among that people in great perfection, particularly those of weaving, needle work, embroidery. The precepts of the religion taught by their ancient magi, or priests, included the practise of agriculture: and it was a maxim of the Zendavesta, the oldest book now in the world except one, that he who sows the ground with care and diligence, acquires a greater degree of religious merit, then he could have gained by the repetition of ten thousand prayers.

[*Connecticut Courant.*

Antidote to Mice.—Mr. Macdonald of Scalpa, after sustaining considerable loss by the depredations committed by mice, thought of placing at the bottom, in the middle, and at the top of each heap of corn, some branches of wild Thyme, and since his stock has been untouched. He found the same success in preserving cheese and other provisions. It may be concluded from thence that it will be easy to drive mice from bake-houses and places where they do mischief, by sprinkling some drops of the oil of Thyme [peppermint] which produces a stronger smell than the plant itself.—*European Magazine.*

Durability of Cedar.—The Farmer's Journal asserts that the durability of cedar is established

by the well attested fact, that in the discovery of a temple of Apollo at Utica, near Carthage, cedar timber, which must have been two thousand years old, was found in perfect preservation. Although cedar trees are not among the natural growth of Great Britain, they are raised in great quantities by cultivation.

COMMUNICATION.

PRESERVATION OF BRIDGES.

An effectual method for preventing Bridges being swept away by extraordinary Freshets.

Let every wooden bridge, in an exposed situation, be loaded with what may judged a sufficient weight of stones. It will be best to procure long rough stones, split out something like a foot square. Let these be placed against the side fences, where they will prove useful in guarding them from the encroachment of wheels. It will be proper however, that much the largest weight be placed on the side of the bridge exposed to the sweeping force of the current.

J. KENRICK.

NEW ENGLAND FARMER.

SATURDAY, MARCH 6, 1824.

EARLY POTATOES. It is quite an object with Farmers and Gardeners, especially those who reside near a city or other populous place, and calculate on increasing their incomes by carrying a part of their produce to market, to raise potatoes as early in the season as practicable, without too great expense. They thus obtain two or three times as much for the article as they would, had it been brought forward a few weeks later, and confer a benefit on the public, by supplying them in the fore part of summer with an excellent vegetable. Besides, very early potatoes are less liable to be destroyed by drought, insects, &c. and the land may be cleared of them in season for a second crop of some other useful product.

In our paper, volume ii. No. 15, page 117, we gave an account of a successful experiment of Ezekiel H. Derby, Esq. by which he obtained new potatoes of a large size, on the 30th of June, notwithstanding the tops had been cut off by frost on the 3d of May preceding. It is not necessary to repeat Mr. Derby's directions on this subject, as our subscribers have, or should have, the files of the present volume, and can turn to the article to which we allude. The cultivator in making any similar experiment will, of course, choose for his seed potatoes as early a variety as he can procure.

JUDGE BUEL'S REMARKS RELATIVE TO SALT AS A MANURE.

The Editor some time since wrote to Hon. Jesse Buel, of Albany, requesting his opinion as regards the use of salt as a manure. His reply is as follows:

"I have read so many contradictory opinions on the use of salt as a manure, as to leave me very much in doubt as to its value, and I have never had faith enough in its utility to make an experiment, except upon my asparagus bed, and I cannot believe it is likely to come into use on account of expense, even should its utility be established. I have often put to myself the questions, 'If salt be beneficial to soils, why do we not see its beneficial effects within the influence of the sea winds and fogs? Are not these impregnated with saline particles?' I have not been able to solve these questions."

We think however, that salt may be in many cases a useful application to soils, but for the reasons stated in the first page of this day's paper, we do not believe it ought to be considered, strictly speaking, as a manure.

A Meeting of the Hartford County Agricultural Society, was held in the city of Hartford, on the 17th ult. We are compelled for want of room to defer notice of their proceedings to our next.

FOREIGN.

By a late arrival from Havre, Paris papers to the 15th of January, containing London dates to the 12th, have been received. The London Courier of the 12th states that an expedition of more than 20 vessels, 8 of them of the line, was fitting out at Brest. This assertion was copied into the Paris papers, without remarks. It was stated that the French Ministers had notified the British Ambassador that their sole destination was Martinico and Guadaloupe; but the Courier intimates that they are bound for the Gulph of Mexico.

The Political Constitution of Spain has been abolished, together with all the Provincial and Municipal Assemblies, and all the offices which were created under the Constitution: The Constitutional Militia have likewise been disbanded. The illness of the Marquis Yrujo delayed the organization of the new Government. Robberies and murders are said to be frequent in the interior of Spain.

A strong British expedition was preparing at Malta, to demand the restoration of a number of Greeks, forcibly taken from a British vessel by a Tunis cruiser.

Nothing new from the Greeks. The Turks were preparing for a fourth campaign.

About the last of November between ten and twenty persons were tried at Naples for belonging to a secret society. Of these three were sentenced to be hanged, and to pay a fine of 1500 ducats each; four to twenty years imprisonment in irons, 300 ducats fine, and ten years security for good behaviour, after the expiration of their sentences.

At the last date from Demarara, martial law continued in force, and the infliction of punishment, upon the criminals in the recent conspiracy had not terminated. Numbers were daily flogged, pursuant to their sentences. Some received *one thousand lashes.*

A Blind Traveller.—Mr. James Hoffman, a man who has been blind since he was twelve years of age, arrived at Irkutz, in Siberia, on the 16th. He set out from England without any companions, and accomplished the almost, for him, inconceivable task of travelling to Siberia quite alone. What is more extraordinary is, that he speaks hardly any other language than English. He takes a guide from one town to another, and writes down every thing that he can learn, with a machine invented in England, and adopted in many schools.

DOMESTIC.

A letter from one of the Missionaries among the Osage Indians says:—"you have probably before this been informed of the murder of five or six white men by the Osages, who were hunting on their war-ground. I hope that our friends will not be alarmed for our safety on this account. This act has been publicly disavowed by the natives. They never manifested more affection to us or more loyalty towards our government in their professions."

Extracting Poison from the Stomach.—A British Surgeon claims a valuable invention for extracting poison from the stomach by means of a pump, which elicits the contents of that organ without pain or danger to the person operated on. A writer in the N. Y. Statesman, with the signature "*Surgico Medical*," says that Dr. Physick, nearly, if not quite ten years since, first suggested this operation, and Dr. Dorsey was the first who washed out the stomach, by attaching a catheter to the point of a syringe, in the case of a young man, who took laudanum for the purpose of committing suicide. Mr. Jukes (the supposed English inventor) is said to have known this two years only. I have myself, for more than five years, kept an instrument by me for the above mentioned purpose."

Laudable.—The Connecticut Mirror of the 1st inst. informs that Mr. Samuel S. Stebbins, of Simsbury, proposes to establish an Agricultural School similar to that of Mr. Fellenberg, at Hofwyll, in Switzerland. "The object of the contemplated institution is to give the pupils a competent knowledge of such sciences as are taught in our highest schools as *practically* as possible. For instance, in surveying—the compass, the chain and other tools of science are to be used. A farm is to be attached to the institution, agriculture is to be taught as an art as well as a science, that our farmers may have no more reason to find fault with book-farming. The scholars are to be boarded on the spot, and their industry, their frugality, and their morals will also be practically attended to."

The New York Commercial Advertiser confirms a report which has been circulated but not generally believed relative to two very large ships now building at Quebec. And a London paper of recent date asserts "that a gentleman of Port Glasgow has devised a method of importing timber, which, if successful, will tend to effect very materially its price. The plan is to lay a keel 300 feet in length, as for a ship of extraordinary dimensions; upon this base a superstructure of solid logs is to be reared and the external surface caulked and pitched over. Having prepared the lower part of the keel it is then to be launched; the building is then to be proceeded in a float, forming a solid mass of timber, with the exception of a space for the machinery of two very powerful steam-engines, by which it is intended to propel this huge raft. In this way it is calculated that a single importation may extend to 15,000 tons; a quantity of timber which would require thirty vessels of 500 tons burden to carry. This scheme, it is said, has been submitted to the Committee at Lloyds, and received their approbation; and it is added, that the under writers have entered so far into the views of the projector, as to take the risk of the experimental cargo, now in preparation for the voyage from one of our ports in Canada, at the ordinary rate of premium."

Navigation of Connecticut River.—A number of citizens of Hartford, Conn. have associated and taken measures to improve the navigation of Connecticut River. They have chosen a Committee, consisting of David Porter and Eliphalet Averill to enquire into the obstructions of said navigation, who have reported that the decline of business on said river proceeds from sand and gravel bars, the construction of the boats, the falls at Enfield and Brattleborough, and the high rate of tolls paid at the Locks. They state certain methods for removing those impediments, and at the conclusion of their report observe that "the magnitude of the subject astonishes even its projectors, and of its practicability there remains no reasonable doubt."

River on fire.—The Salt Wells on Calf Killer river, in Tennessee, lately took fire. In boring for salt water, the miners struck a vein of sulphureous gas, which escaped through a rock in the bed of the River, and being ignited at the surface, rose in a flame to the height of 40 feet, presenting the singular spectacle of a *river on fire.*

Extract of a letter from Cincinnati, Ohio, Jan. 27.—"I was astonished on reaching this place to find how extremely cheap the markets are here. We have whiskey at "three fips" per gallon; partridges at two cents each; chickens at 5; ducks at 6 1-4; geese 20 to 25; turkeys from 19 to 44; some of the latter price weigh 20 pounds; butter 10 to 12 cents; beef 2 to 4. Wood is now selling at from 75 to 87 1-2 cents per cord.—The weather resembles that of spring, and we have scarcely felt the winter yet."

Fire.—On the 8th ult. the Woollen Factory, belonging to Buck and Baily, at Fort Royal, Vir. with all its machinery, and a large quantity of cloth, was destroyed by fire. The loss is estimated at five thousand dollars. The second night after the Factory, the dwelling house of Mrs. Buck, at the same place was burnt down.

Fatal Sleigh Ride.—A man named Ross has been committed to jail in Sullivan County, N. Y. charged with the murder of a young man by the name of Conklin. It appears that a party had been out in a sleigh, and that Ross, who was driving, had become intoxicated, and driven out of the road, when Conklin remonstrated with him, and attempted to seize the reins.—This so exasperated Ross, that he threatened to kill

him. A knife was seen in his hand, and immediately after, Conklin sprang from the sleigh, exclaimed that he was a dead man; he died in fifteen minutes after the wound was inflicted.

On Tuesday last, the Supreme Judicial Court commenced their law term for suffolk and Nantucket, when the commission of the Hon. Levi Lincoln, appointing him a Judge of said court, was read, and he received, and reciprocated, the salutations of the Bench and Bar. The Rev. Mr. Sharp offered prayers. At 1 o'clock, the Bar Association attended at King's Chapel to hear an address from the Hon. William Sullivan, their President. This address contained much curious matter of the history of the bar, in New England, particularly of Massachusetts; a subject which has been but little attended to by lawyers, or biographers and historians in general—we are happy that a gentleman of Mr. Sullivan's taste, talents, and research, has turned his mind to it. Politicians, soldiers, and writers of every class, have a niche in the temple of fame, while the accurate, learned, and indefatigable lawyer, has scarcely been remembered for twenty years after his death.—The progress of law—we do not mean the increase of the statute book—but of those rules of wisdom and enlightened practice, by which life, liberty, and property are secured, is the progress of intelligence and human happiness. We should say much more upon this admirable address, but it is unnecessary, as we expect to see it in print. At 4 o'clock, the members of the Association sat down, to an excellent dinner, at the Exchange Coffee House provided by Col. Hamilton, in his best style. We have been at bar dinners that were dull indeed—where the black-letter spirit seemed to be the presiding genius of the feast, and each one poured down his wine as a matter of course, but no inspiration came from it. This was otherwise—"soul, sentiment and song," flowed with pure and exhilirating influence, as they should do, when all are friends, and a communion of good feelings the object of the association.—*Boston Gazette.*

The *large ox*, raised by Mr. Manchester, in Tiverton, and slaughtered by Mr. Penniman, in this town, as lately mentioned, weighed alive 2362 lbs. When dressed the quarters weighed 384, 364, 338, 330—weight of beef, 1416, hide 139, tallow, 211—total 1766.

[*New Bedford Mercury.*

Boundary Line.—The American and British Commissioners for settling the boundary line from Lake Champlain to the Lake of the Woods, under the 6th and 7th article of the Treaty of Ghent, are about assembling at Albany. The American Commissioner is Gen. Peter B. Porter, the Agent Joseph Delafield, Esq. Col. Barclay is the British Commissioner, and Col. Hale, Agent.

The Government of Canada are taking measures to obtain a direct trade with India and China, and encouragement for raising Tobacco.

Serious Accident.—On the 8th inst. a boat was upset in Niagara river, when Mrs Stevens, of Lewiston, and Mrs. Gordon and daughter, were drowned.

Curious Verdict.—A petit jury in Louisiana, lately sentenced a man to pay a fine of $1000 for killing one of his slaves. The Judge informed them that their business was to decide on the guilt of the prisoners, and not to interfere with punishment which was fixed by the law. Nothing, however, would induce them to alter the verdict.—*N. Y. Eve. Post.*

Steam Boat Accidents.—We learn from the Mobile papers, that the steam boat Osage, from St. Stephens, with a cargo of cotton, run upon a snag and sunk; also, that the steam boat Columbus, bound down, with 1400 bales of cotton and fifty passengers had struck upon a shoal, and it was feared she could not get off again.

The steam boat Delaware, from Philadelphia to New-Castle, was run down on Friday morning last, and immediately sunk—passengers and baggage saved.

The New York National Advocate mentions that there are now in confinement in the debtors' prison in that city *four persons only*, the whole amount of whose debts is about $214.

CONGRESSIONAL.

In Senate.—Friday, Feb. 20. A memorial from the Legislature of Kentucky, against the Federal Judicial System; and a list of the unproductive Post Routes in the United States were presented and referred.

A bill to authorize a Military road in Louisiana, and appropriate $20,000 for that object passed. Yeas 28, Nays 8.

A bill on the subject of imprisonment for debt was made the order of the day for Monday.

The bill for the better security of public moneys in the hands of Marshalls, Attorneys, &c. was re-committed, after some discussion, in which Messrs. Mills, Holmes, and Van Dyke bore a part.

Monday, Feb. 23. Accounts from the Indian Department expenditures, and information of the quantity of domestic Hemp used in Cordage manufactures for the Navy were received from the Departments, and appropriately referred.

The bill to authorize the opening and laying out of certain roads in Florida, &c. passed.

The Judiciary Committee having reported unfavorably on the petition of Ebenezer Oliver, and others of Boston, relative to the Yazoo claim, the subject was debated in the House. Mr. Mills moved to reverse the report and spoke at considerable length in support of the claim. Messrs. Van Buren, Holmes, and Kelcy supported the Report; but before any question was taken the Senate adjourned.

Tuesday, Feb. 24. A Message of considerable length, relative to the Massachusetts Claim, was received from the President, which concluded as follows: "I therefore consider it as my duty to recommend it to Congress to make provision for the settlement of the Claim of Massachusetts, for services rendered in the late war by the Militia of this State, in conformity with the rules which have governed in the settlement of the Claims for services rendered by the Militia of other States."

Wednesday, Feb. 25. The bill for granting a sum of money to the descendants of the late Col. Laurens was taken up, discussed, but not decided on.

Thursday, Feb. 26. Mr. Mills presented the petition of the legal representatives of the late Gen. Lincoln, and Col. Humphreys, stating that in the year 1789, they were appointed Commissioners to treat with the Indians—that goods intended as presents for the Indians were taken for other uses by the Government, but still stood charged, on the books of the Treasury, to the Commissioners—that orders had been given to commence suits for the amount of these goods, against the representatives of Gen. Lincoln and Col. Humphreys, whose estates have long since been settled. The petitioners pray the intervention of Congress for the equitable settlement of those accounts.—Referred to the Committee on Claims.

The Claim of the New England Mississippi Land Company was again discussed, and after discussion, disallowed.

House.—Friday, Feb. 20. The Committee on Elections reported that John Bailey, a member from Mass. was not entitled to a seat in the House. Laid on the table.

The resolution of Mr. Owen, for information respecting the operation of the Tariff bill, if passed into a law, on the financial concerns of the United States was taken up, and sustained by Messrs. Brent, Wickliffe, and Garnet, and opposed by Messrs. Mallary, Stewart, Trimble and Ingham. No decision was had on the question.

The House, in Committee, resumed the consideration of the bill for making appropriations for the Military Service of 1824, when the bill having been amended, was ordered to be engrossed. The contingencies were fixed at $20,000; Armories $360,000; Ordnance service $42,000; Pensions to Revolutionary Pensioners $1,291,716 39; for invalid and other Pensioners $313,174.

Monday, Feb. 23. The resolution of Mr. Owen calling for information relative to the probable effect of the Tariff bill on the national finances was further discussed.

The Military Appropriation Bill for 1824, passed and was sent to the Senate.

Several Messages were received from the President. 1st. on the Massachusetts Claim; 2d. respecting Scott's Army Regulations; 3d. respecting the boundary line of Arkansas; and 4th, relating to expenses, which would be incurred by transporting 200 of the troops now at the Council Bluffs, to the mouth of the Columbia or Orregon river.

Tuesday, Feb. 24. This day was occupied in discussing the Tariff bill, but no decision was obtained.

Wednesday, Feb. 25. A report on Lambert's Explanations of his Astronomical Observations, &c. for establishing the Longitude of the Capitol was made and laid on the table.

On motion of Mr. Sibley, of Mass. the Committee on Agriculture was instructed to inquire if an increase of the duty now established by law on any article of foreign growth or manufacture will be for the interest of the agriculturist, and if there be any such article to name the same, together with the additional amount of duty which they deem beneficial to the agricultural interest.

Thursday, Feb. 26. This day was mostly occupied in discussion, relating to the Tariff.

NEW TOWN OFFICER.

JUST published by Dorr & Howland, A new *Town Officer*, Containing the General Laws of Massachusetts relating to the Choice, Powers, and Duties of Town Officers arranged under their respective titles.—For sale at their Bookstore in Worcester, and by Richardson & Lord, Boston. *Worcester, March* 1, 1824.

PRICES OF COUNTRY PRODUCE, &c.

[Revised and corrected every Friday.]

		FROM D. C.	TO D. C.
APPLES, good, to best,	bbl.	1 75	2 25
ASHES, pot, 1st sort,	ton.	145 00	147 50
pearl do.		140	145 00
BEANS, white,	bush	90	1 00
BEEF, mess, 200 lbs. new,	bbl.	8 25	8 50
cargo, No 1,		7	
" No 2,		6	
BUTTER, inspect. 1st qual.	lb.	10	12
CHEESE, new milk		7	9
skimed milk,		3	4
FLAX		8	9
FLAX SEED	bush	83	90
FLOUR, Baltimore, Howard St.	bbl.	6 75	
Genessee,		7	7 25
Rye, best		3 25	3 50
GRAIN, Rye	bush	65	68
Corn		42	52
Barley		67	70
Oats		37	40
HOGS' LARD, 1st sort	lb.	10	
HOPS, No 1, Inspection of 1823		25	35
LIME,	cask	1 00	1 17
OIL, Linseed, Phil. and Northern	gal.	63	72
PLAISTER PARIS	ton.	4 50	5 00
PORK, BoneMiddlings new,	bbl.	13 50	14 50
navy, mess,		12	12 50
Cargo, No 1,		11 50	12 50
SEEDS, Herd's Grass, 1822,	bush	2 75	3 00
Clover	lb.	7	
WOOL, Merino, full blood, washed		58	70
do do unwashed		37	40
do 3-4 washed		45	50
do 1-2 do		37	40
Native do		31	33
Pulled, Lamb's, 1st sort		50	00
do Spinning, 1st sort		40	42
PROVISION MARKET.	lb.		
BEEF, best pieces		6	8
PORK, fresh, best pieces,		8	10
" whole hog,		5	6
VEAL,		4	10
MUTTON and LAMB,		3	10
POULTRY,		6	10
BUTTER, keg & tub, family,		13	16
lump,		10	17
EGGS,	doz.	12	14
MEAL, Rye, retail,	bush	75	80
Indian, do.		65	70
POTATOES,		33	40
CIDER, liquor, new	bbl.	2 00	2 50
HAY, according to quality,	ton.	16 00	18 00

THE MANSION OF PEACE.

As I stood on the hill that o'erlooks the dear cot
Where my Kate and my little ones dwell,
I said, if the splendor of kings were my lot,
I'd prefer my own daisy grown dell.
Though humble my wicket, and shatter'd my latch,
And the winds my rude lattice have rent,
Though my mansion is low and all covered with thatch,
'Twas the mansion of peace and the home of content.

Though twelve weary months have now wasted away,
Since my Kate and my cottage I left,
Though the hardships of fate I've encountered by day,
And of sleep I've at night been bereft;
Yes oh! if my Kate and my little ones live,
Should they smile with the blessing of health,
The hardships of life I'll forever forgive,
For in them I've a world full of wealth.

As I spoke I beheld my love Kate at the door,
And my little ones played by her side,
Let the tempest come on, let the wind loudly roar,
In the moment of madness I cried;
No longer I paused in a transport so true,
For never seem'd mortals so blest,
To her dear open arms I instantly flew,
And let those who have hearts speak the rest.

At eve my dear little ones clang round my knees,
As I kissed them a thousand times o'er,
What rapture I cried can be equal to these!
'Tis heaven alone can give more—
Though humble my wicket and shattered my latch,
And the winds my rude lattice have rent,
I find in my mansion that's covered with thatch,
Still the mansion of peace and the home of content.

MISCELLANY.

Look not thou upon the liquor when it sparkles, when it "giveth its color in the cup, when it moveth itself aright: at the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder." SOLOMON.

Would you learn how like a serpent drunkenness biteth and how like an adder it stingeth,—then contemplate the disgusting figure and the deplorable circumstances of *Silenus*.—Behold this miserable wreck of a man!—He is not yet turned of forty, yet totters in his steps, like one of four score—See him weakened in intellect, morose in temper, lost to all sense either of honour or shame, lost to all affection towards the wife of his bosom and the children of his own body.—Mark the stupidity of his countenance, the morose aspect of his blood shotten eyes, his palsied hand, and the leprous tetter that covers his skin.—Turn now and behold his wife—there she sits in that corner, covered with a thin tattered robe and shivering over a handful of coals. —See her pale and emaciated—her eyes dim with weeping and her cheeks furrowed with tears—Hapless woman! who can but pity thee? who can but mingle his tears with thine?—Look next on those suffering children.—They receive nought but frowns and curses and blows from the man whom they had been taught to call by the endearing name of father; yet they have a friend whose bosom throbs with tenderness towards them; but her hand is too feeble to supply their needs.—They ask their mother for bread, but she has none to break for them. —The storm howls through the broken windows and they say, "we are cold?" she answers them only with sighs. Alas! she has none to bind up her own bleeding heart.—And is this the once sensible and sprightly *Silenus*, fortune's child, who inherited a large patrimonial estate, whose pockets were lined with gold?—Is that too the once gay and beautiful *Philenia*, the delight of her parents, the joy and the life of the social circle?—Is this the pair that commenced the connubial state with prospects the most flattering?—The same.—"How fallen, how lost!" And what has wrought this terrible reverse in their circumstances? What has turned this man into a brute? What has plunged this woman into the deepest distress, insomuch that her tears are her meat? What has rendered these children miserable? What *fiend* has poisoned and destroyed the happiness of this whole family!—That cursed *fiend* is drunkenness—Time was when *Silenus* was a kind husband and an affectionate father, when his company gladdened the heart of his wife, when his little prattlers used to meet him at the door and received his fond caresses.—Time was when every room in this mansion was gilded with domestic happiness, when he ranked in society as a useful member and an ornament, and when the eye that saw him, blessed him, and the ear that heard him was respectfully attentive.—But *Silenus* looked on the sparkling liquor, while giving its colour and temptingly moving itself in the cup—he tasted, he at length tippled daily; the habit became riveted—he plunged occasionally into intoxication, and from occasional intoxication, he at last became a downright sot—His estate is consumed, and of all poor people, his family are among the most wretched.—"Dig they cannot," having never been taught to labor—"to beg they are ashamed"—This is not a romance: —there are many families in our country, whose deplorable situation corresponds with this description.—*Con. Courant.*

A WOMAN CAN KEEP A SECRET.

The following anecdote will prove the fallacy of the remark, that "a Woman, cannot keep a secret."

Some years since, a lady called at a glover's shop in the outskirts of the town, and purchased a pair of gloves for her immediate wear; observing, at the same time, she was on her road to Burnet—that she had left her gloves at her friend's house, where she had called, and that she was apprehensive of being benighted if she went back for them. The glover fitted on the gloves; and the lady, after paying for them from a purse well stocked with bank notes, stepped into her post chaise, and proceeded on her journey. She had scarcely reached Finchley Common, when a highwayman stopped the chaise, and demanded her money. He intreated her not to be alarmed, as he had no intention upon her person—if she surrendered her property, it was all he wanted, declaring, that distress, and not his will urged him to this desperate act, and he was determined to remove his penury, or perish. The lady gave her purse, and the desperado rode off.

After he was gone, and the fright had subsided, the lady imagined, that, in the address of the highwayman, she recognized the voice of the glover she had just before dealt with. This conceit struck her so forcibly, that she ordered the post-boy to drive back to town--not choosing, she said, to venture further over the heath.—On her arrival at the glover's she knocked and gained admittance, the glover himself opening the door. The lady desired to speak with him in private. The glover shewed her to a back parlour; when she exclaimed, "I am come for my purse, of which you robbed me this evening on Finchly Common!"—The glover was confounded; and the lady proceeded—"It is of no use for you to deny it: I am convinced, and your life is at my mercy. Return me my property, and trust to my humanity."—The glover, overcome with guilt, shame and confusion, returned the purse, confessed the crime, and pleaded his distress. The lady, after suitable admonition, gave him a ten pound note, bade him mend his way of life, and keep his own counsel: adding that she would never divulge his name or place of abode. She kept her word: and, though the robbery was stated in the public papers, the discovery was omitted; and it was not until very recently, that a minute of this singular transaction was found among the papers of the lady alluded to: Even in this private memorandum, the name and residence of the glover was omitted; and the secret, in that particular, rests with the lady in the grave.

After this tale, the truth of which may be relied on, who will say that a woman cannot keep a secret?

ADVICE TO YOUNG MEN.

There is no one thing that is so important to a young man that is just entering on the stage of life, as the choice of company; every thing in a great measure depends upon that. The dashing rakes and dissipated fops may have their allurements, but above all things, young men beware of them. They entice but to ruin, and he who is weak enough to be led into their snares may be sure of meeting with nothing but disappointment, chagrin and the loss of health, and an empty purse.—Therefore, it is of the greatest consequence, to choose suitable companies to associate with.

Many imagine that they shall not be considered gentlemen without they swear roundly, drink down their bottle of wine, and smoak their dozen of segars at a sitting; but mistaken young men, beware how you indulge yourselves in such pernicious practices; for depend upon it, if you are led on thus by degrees into vice, your fame, fortune and health, will pay dear for your folly. In *drunken revels*, and *noisy carousals*, you may make the moments of time appear to pass with swiftness, but recollect that every fleeting moment brings you nearer to that bourne from whence no traveller returns. M. C.

Idleness.—Epaminondas, Prince of Thebes, had such hatred for idleness, that finding one of his captains asleep in the day time, he slew him. For which act, being reproved by his nobles, he replied, "I left him as I found him;" thus comparing idle men to dead men.

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